

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, CU, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO SPONSORED CONSULTANCY OF US ECOLOGICAL
EXPERT IN CUBA

REF: STATE 262527 OF NOV. 5, 1975

1. JOHN CELECIA (US), UNESCO MAB DIVISION, QUERIED DELOFF AS TO DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT STANCE ON INITIAL REACTION OF "NO OBJECTION" (CONVEYED REFTEL) TO DR. RICHARD LEVINS SERVING ON UNESCO-SPONSORED CONSULTANT TO ADVISE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN LATTER'S ECOLOGICAL PROGRAMS. DESPITE PURELY SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF CONSULTANCY AND UNESCO SPONSORSHIP, CELECIA THOUGHT RECENT CUBAN-US TENSIONS MIGHT HAVE CHANGED USG ATTITUDE.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, DR. LEVINS (NOW IN DEPT. OF POPULATION SCIENCES, HARVARD UNIV., SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BOSTON, MASS) HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY CUBANS FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX WEEK MISSION, NOW TENTATIVELY SET TO BEGIN IN EARLY APRIL. LEVINS WOULD ADVISE PERTINENT CUBAN AUTHORITIES, SCIENTISTS AND

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INSTITUTIONS ON (A) "METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES APPLIED

TO INTEGRATED ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH" AND (B) "APPLICATION OF SIMULATION MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO THE STUDY OF TROPICAL FOREST AND SAVANNA." LEVINS WOULD WORK PRIMARILY WITH CUBAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AND HAS ALREADY BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH A DR. MUNIZ OF CUBAN NATCOM AS TO SCHEDULING OF VISIT.

3. MOST RECENTLY UNESCO HAS BEEN ASKED BY THEIR RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN HAVANA TO ADVISE OF CURRENT STATUS OF LEVIN'S CONSULTANCY.

4. CELECIA IN MAB DIVISION HERE SAID HIS COLLEAGUE, DR. VAN DROSTE, COULD DISCUSS MATTER WHEN HE ATTENDS U.S. MAB COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS MONTH. ACCORDING TO CELECIA, CUBANS SPOKE WITH DONALD KING ABOUT LEVINS DURING NOVEMBER 19-26, 1975 MAB ICC MEETING; AT WHICH TIME THERE SEEMED TO BE NO OBSTACLES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. SECRETARIAT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO ADVISE THEIR RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN HAVANA BY FEBRUARY 13.

6. IN DEPARTMENT'S REFTTEL, IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT LEVINS WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN SPECIAL VALIDATION OF HIS PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA. PERMDEL ASSUMES USUAL CLEARANCE ALSO NEEDED. PLEASE ADVISE.

7. LEVINS TRIO WOULD OF COURSE BE ENTIRELY UNDER UNESCO-CUBAN ARRANGEMENT.
RUSH

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